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Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /115 W
---------- 033739
R 061145Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO AMCONSUL KARACHI
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7012

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 8180

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, PK
SUBJ: PETROLEUM: TEXASGULF OIL EXPLORATION JOINT
VENTURE: EMBASSY EFFORTS TO ASSURE GOP APPROVAL

REF: EMB MEMCON JULY 9, 1976

1. KARACHI AND DEPT MAY BE INTERESTED KNOW THAT GENERAL MANAGER OF BRITISH-CONTROLLED ATTOCK OIL CORPORATION, T.A.T. LODHI, APPROACHED AMBASSADOR JULY 9 URGENTLY REQUESTING EMBASSY SUPPORT WITH GOP FOR TEXASGULF-ATTOCK OIL EXPLORATION JOINT VENTURE IN KOHAT REGION OF NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE. VENTURE WAS OSTENSIBLY IN DANGER BECAUSE OF DETERMINED EFFORT MADE BY RIVAL GOP-OWNED OIL COMPANY (OGDC) TO SECURE THE DESIRED CONCESSION AREA. AFTER INITIAL APPROACH, LODHI CONTACTED EMBASSY ALMOST DAILY FOR NEXT FEW WEEKS SEEKING SUPPORT. (ATTOCK OIL CHOSE NOT APPROACH UK EMB FOR HELP, IN PART BECAUSE NEW UK AMBASSADOR HAD NOT ARRIVED.)

2. ON JULY 20, DCM AND E/C COUNS DISCUSSED MATTER WITH FINANCE SECGEN KAZI. ON JULY 26, AMBASSADOR MET WITH FUELS MINISTER KHATTAK TO EXPRESS USG INTEREST AND
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LATER MENTIONED SUBJECT TO PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO. LATEST

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INFO POINTS TO FUELS MINISTRY AND SUB-CABINET COMMITTEE
(ECC) HAVING APPROVED TEXASFULF-ATTOCK OIL PROPOSAL AND THAT
IT NOW GOES TO PM FOR FINAL SANCTION.

3. REQUEST: SINCE TEXASGULF NEVER APPROACHED EMB DIRECTLY,
COMPANY MAY BE UNAWARE OF OUR EFFORTS TO HELP. YOU MAY
WISH THEREFORE TO PASS ABOVE TO MR. J.B. WEST, GENMGR
OF TEXASGULF EXPLORATION IN SIND, WHO THOUGH NOT INVOLVED
IN ATTOCK JOINT VENTURE IS REPORTEDLY AWARE OF IT. DO
NOT, HOWEVER, SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY'S ROLE WAS NECESSARILY
DETERMINING. JOINT VENTURE'S POSITION FOLLOWING
NEGOTIATIONS OVER MANY MONTHS WITH FUELS MINISTRY WAS
SEEMINGLY ALREADY FAIRLY STRONG AND VENTURE PROBABLY
WOULD HAVE WON ON ITS OWN MERITS. EMB WAS PLEASED
TO TRY TO HELP.
BYROADE

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